

FACTS ABOUT LAKE TEXOMA

From Durant, Oklahoma, Gateway To The Fabulous Recreation Area

Created by the construction of a sixty million dollar dam by the U. S. Army Engineers below the junction of the Washita and Red Rivers, Lake Texoma filled in 1945, forming the fifth largest man-made body of water in the world, covering 100,000 acres (156 sq. miles) at normal elevation, and 142,000 acres (221 sq. miles) at maximum, or spillway elevation. At maximum elevation the lake stretches fifty seven miles east and west and forty two miles north and south. Seventy two per cent of Lake Texoma is in Oklahoma, the Sooner State.

Lake Texoma has steadily grown in popularity as an allyear-round tourist and recreation center, being visited by more than eight million people per annum.

There are many justifiable reasons for Lake Texoma's enviable reputation as a recreation center, one being that its 100,000 acres of blue water is recognized as the Southwest's "hottest" fishing spot for large-mouth black bass, white bass, crappie and all varieties af catfishes.

Boating and skiing are major sports on Lake Texoma. with more than five thousand boats permanently installed on the lake and thousands of boats being brought to the lake by fishermen and boating enthusiasts for outings and recreation. Boats range from outboard fishing and pleasure craft to \$50,000 cruisers permanently housed on the lake. To those who wish to bring their boats to Lake Texoma there is no charge or fee for launching the boat which may be done by the owner at any of the resort's launching ramps or on the "fishermen roads" leading to the lake. Likewise, there is no charge for fishing or swimming, including free use of Lake Texoma's developed beaches. Camping is free and without charge, including the use of camping areas near resorts developed by U. S. Army Engineers. The fisherman needs only to launch his boat and choose a fishing spot as there is no matter of registration or fee in this connection. It is, of course, necessary that the fisherman have customary Oklahoma resident fishing license, or non-residents may secure licenses at any resort or sporting goods store for the nominal sum of \$2.25 for a 10 day license or \$5.00 for an annual license, each good for the entire State of Oklahoma. There is no closed season on game fish in Oklahoma.

Added protection is given boat owners by the U. S. Coast Guard through their system of navigation beacons of various colors on 40 foot towers, with lights flashing every four seconds. Also, due to the immensity of this body of water the U. S. Coast Guard has now lighted the Roosevelt and Frisco Bridges as a safety measure and for navigation purposes.

Around the lake are numerous excellent and modern resorts, courts, motels and tourist cabins, offering all types of accommodations, and a wide variety of facilities for outdoor pleasure — — fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, water skiing, speed boat races and many other forms of entertainment. Depending upon your wishes, you may secure cabins and courts with or without kitchenettes. Resorts furnish food service ranging from snack bars to dining rooms seating 600 persons. Regardless of the number of resorts it is wise to secure reservations in advance.



Lake Texoma State Park, 2600 acres, developed by the State of Oklahoma, at a cost of more than two million dollars, is the last word in tourist and sportsmen accommodations in the entire Southwest. This facility consists of Lake Texoma Lodge, 106 rooms, 80 modern individual cottages and a 20 room Fishermen Lodge, capable of hosting 600 guests. The entire facilities are refrigerated air conditioned. Included are a modern golf course, swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, childrens playground, riding stables and paved airstrip. Provided by the State for visitors, without charge, are free camp grounds with 300 concrete tables, benches and grills; modern bath houses with showers and toilets. Also, three concrete boat launching ramps.

For those who like to fish, but "stay ashore" there is the mile long steel span of the Roosevelt Memorial Bridge over the Washita Arm of Lake Texoma on U. S. Highway 70 west of Durant where more than 600 people have been known to fish at one time. Roosevelt Memorial Bridge is "White-way" lighted for its entire length with two-way 10,000 lumen fixtures. Next, the Fish-Arena Barge located at Texoma State Park and Hefner's Fishing Barge at Newberry Creek Resort.

Those traveling north or south through Durant may take concrete Highway 75 "A" at Colbert, Oklahoma, and cross the dam for an interesting view of Lake Texoma.

The Oklahoma State Department of Public Safety through its efficient and courteous State Highway Patrol, maintains State Highway Patrol Headquarters in the City of Durant, and the personnel is not only ready at all times to be of benefit to tourists but with its radio intercommunication system is in a position to serve visitors during an emergency.

The Idle Time Excursion Boat, privately owned, but U. S. Coast Guard approved and supervised, with a capacity of 120 persons, operates daily schedules, or is available at a reasonable charge for charter by schools or civic groups, clubs or individuals.

Thousands of visitors make their "vacation headquarters" at Lake Texoma or in the City of Durant, visiting other nearby recreation points and historical spots which can be reached shortly and conveniently over Durant's multiple highways. In addition to oil wells actually in operation in Lake Texoma a large portion of the operations in the Pure Oil Field are actually carried on 40 feet lower than the normal elevation of Lake Texoma, due to the Pure Oil Field being "diked off" and an entirely new channel dug for the Washita River, an engineering feat of magnitude. The dam impounding Lake Texoma, three miles long and approximately one quarter of a mile wide at its base, attracts the interest of all tourists.

While quite true, it is not a well known fact among the people of the more northerly states that Southern Oklahoma is an ideal winter vacation area. Lake Texoma is gradually becoming known as a most excellent and pleasant area for late fall and winter vacations. The weather is ideal, fishing and outdoor sports are excellent after the beginning of the "frost period" as well as during the accepted summer months. Under ordinary circumstances fishing and outdoor activities are most pleasant and enjoyable, extending into the Christmas holidays.

The City of Durant boasts good hotels and courts, it is only ten miles from the city to the lake, via excellent concrete highways, and owners of housing accommodations, cafes, merchants and service establishments in Durant are accustomed to the wants and desires of visitors, recreationists and tourists and consequently are in a position to render excellent services. The City of Durant has excellent food establishments, sporting goods houses, picture shows and drive-ins, service stations, merchants and suppliers for every desire of the visitor.

With ten highways, three railroads, and Eaker Field, with its concrete runways, one of the best airports in the Southwest, transportation facilities into Durant and Lake Texoma are unexcelled. The Lake Texoma resort owners, the operators of other Lake Texoma facilities, the business and service establishments of the City of Durant and the citizens of the Lake Texoma area in general are anxious that your visit or vacation be pleasant and enjoyable, and we - - - -

WELCOME YOU TO DURANT AND
LAKE TEXOMA

Durant Chamber of Commerce

DURANT, OKLAHOMA

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